

tition to a minimum. The greatest significance of the book lies in the fact that it not only covers most of the most important facets of the theory and practice of bird study, and surveys our present state of knowledge, but also points out where there are at present worthwhile opportunities for further study. The two final sections containing regional and general information will be welcomed by travelling ornithologists or those requiring overseas contacts for their work.

In a publication of the scope outlined above, some shortcomings are almost inevitable. Thus one wonders why some world regions have been treated adequately, while others—such as the Far East, including the Malayan region, and even Australasia—seem less well covered, perhaps owing to the lack of contributors interested in those areas. Also, it may be pointed out that the regional information is often out of date and the spelling, particularly of foreign names, often leaves much to be desired.

K.A.W.

OBITUARY

It is with regret that we have to announce the death on 16 May 1957 of Dr W. R. B. Oliver. A full obituary will appear in a later issue.

RELIEF FOR HUNGARIAN ORNITHOLOGISTS

This was discussed at the Annual General Meeting, and the following letter has since been received from Dr K. Wodzicki:

Sir: During the short-lived revolution in October 1956 the Hungarian Ornithological Institute in Budapest was gutted; one hundred thousand volumes of the Institute's library and 40,000 bird skins of their national collections were burnt; further, the news reaching us from the neighbouring countries and from Hungary itself is that the homes of some ornithologists have been destroyed and that the material existence of all of them is precarious. Polish, German and recently British ornithologists have tried to help their Hungarian colleagues by collecting money, from which parcels containing clothing, underwear and footwear could be sent, and from which perhaps some of their needs of standard ornithological periodicals could be met. The address of the Hungarian Ornithological Institute and the names of its seven members are in the hands of our Treasurer, to whom any contributions may be sent. The experience of Polish ornithologists regarding parcels has been that if the parcels are sent through the Red Cross to the recipients, care of the Hungarian Red Cross, they are delivered.

Wellington, 31/5/57

K. WODZICKI

SHORT NOTES

GREY DUCKLING KILLED BY PARADISE DUCKS

On 29/1/57 in Takahe Valley I disturbed a brood of five Grey Ducklings (*A. superciliosa*) about a week old, as I walked along the shore of Lake Orbell. They swam away from me into deep water and then, calling as they went, set course for a parent bird some hundred yards further out. Indirectly between them and their objective was a family of Paradise Ducks (*Tadorna variegata*) composed of parents and four well-grown young. Attracted by the sight of the ducklings and, no doubt, by their pipings as well, the adults set course to intercept the brood and upon reaching it (it made no attempt, until too late, to avoid contact) attacked it viciously with wings and bill. They were joined by